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Congress of the United States

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

December 27, 1966

Executive Order
66-5417

Mr. Richard Helms
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Helms:

This will confirm previous oral discussions between Mr. John T. Conway, Executive Director of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, and Dr. Donald Chamberlain and Mr. George Carey of the Central Intelligence Agency.

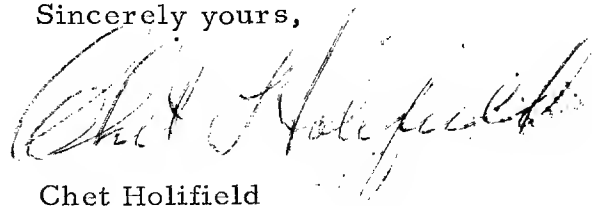
The Joint Committee desires to be kept currently and fully informed as to Chinese Communist nuclear weapons capabilities and in this connection it is requested that the Committee be informed each time evidence is received that a nuclear test may have occurred.

It is the Committee's understanding that upon receipt of information of a possible nuclear weapon test, representatives of the AEC, DOD, CIA and others are notified and a meeting is called to reach a consensus as to whether, in fact, there has been a nuclear weapons test. I would expect the Joint Committee to be notified when such an alert occurs and at the time when representatives of the various interested agencies have been notified of the planned meeting to make the determination.

In accordance with established Joint Committee procedures information so received will be maintained in accordance with the prevailing security classification of the material received under established security procedures.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Sincerely yours,



Chet Holifield
Chairman

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